

helps small businesses and entrepreneurs, and that's exactly what the JOBS Act does. We're presented with an opportunity to act in a truly bipartisan fashion that will promote job growth across our Nation. So we should join together, I believe, as Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate, to give the President the piece of legislation so he can sign it into law.

#### CASSIUS S. WILLIAMS

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Today, I rise to congratulate Cassius S. Williams, a dear friend, who is the recipient of North Carolina State University's Watauga Medal Award.

Each year, NC State honors alumni for outstanding contributions to the university by bestowing on them the Watauga Medal Award.

Recipients of this historic award understand the enormous value of education, and their commitment to that idea has generated immeasurable prosperity for communities across America.

Watauga Medal Award recipients are candles in the dark, men and women of great purpose who have injected their talents into the lifeblood of North Carolina State University.

Mr. Speaker, this week Cassius S. Williams of Greenville, North Carolina, joined the ranks of great servants as its newest honoree. Without a doubt, his work will continue to foster a better education for our children that will create a brighter future for North Carolina.

The House of Representatives appreciates Cassius Williams.

□ 1210

#### MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO STAND BY ISRAEL

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the opportunity to meet with many of my constituents who were here to advocate for continued support for Israel. I had the opportunity to listen to Prime Minister Netanyahu's remarks on the importance of the American-Israeli alliance and friendship. I'm here to tell them today that I could not agree more, and that at no time has the bond between our countries been more important.

In an increasingly uncertain and unstable region in the world, Israel has proven time and again to be a steadfast friend. In a region governed at best by fledgling democracies with uncertain futures and at worst by brutal authoritarian dictatorships, Israel is a champion of democracy and freedom.

But today Israel is surrounded by increasingly unstable neighbors. Just over the horizon, they're faced with an

Iranian regime that threatens them with annihilation.

In these circumstances, we must do what is right and stand with our friends and allies, the Israeli people. I've been proud to do so in this Chamber, and I will continue to do so in the weeks and months ahead.

#### CREATE JOBS

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, 56 percent of Americans think that creating new jobs should be Congress' number 1 priority, but since taking control of the House, the Republicans have yet to pass one single jobs bill.

Republicans have been more interested in obstructing than finding solutions. They said "no" to the American Jobs Act. Then they introduced a transportation bill that would cut 550,000 jobs. Now with gas prices on the rise, they refuse to roll up their sleeves and get to work.

We should be voting today on legislation to cut billions in tax breaks for big oil companies, crack down on speculators who are inflating prices at the pump, and invest in new sources such as solar energy and new energy. But instead, we have more of the same partisan gridlock from the Party of No.

Our constituents deserve more. America deserves more. Let's get to work now. Lower the gas prices and create jobs.

#### HIGH ENERGY PRICES

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to call attention to the millions of families and small business owners across America who are feeling the impact of high energy prices.

According to AAA, the national average of a gallon of gasoline currently stands at \$3.77, with no sign of relief in the near future. Couple this with higher utility rates, and Americans are struggling under the weight of ever-increasing energy costs. Yet Washington continues to attempt to pile more regulations and higher taxes on energy producers in this country.

Let's be clear: higher energy taxes, more utility mandates, and bigger regulatory burdens drive up the cost of energy production. Washington will not lower energy costs for Americans by placing further roadblocks in the way of energy production in this country.

As workers sit idly waiting to construct the Keystone pipeline and utility and energy producers work to remove government burdens and barriers, the American people are losing. It's time we get the Federal Government out of the way and work together towards bipartisan solutions that get America producing domestic sources of energy in all forms.

Let's lower energy costs for all Americans, and let's get our economy growing again.

#### GAS PRICES

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, have you been to the gas station recently and been shocked? Gas is above \$4 a gallon, in many parts of the country, and climbing. That's 29 cents more than only a month ago. Families everywhere are feeling the pinch.

But why?

It doesn't make sense. Supply is up. We've quadrupled U.S. drilling rigs over the past 3 years. Oil production is at its highest in a decade. Last year, the import of oil fell to its lowest level in 16 years.

The answer is Wall Street speculators who buy oil and hoard it. They take it off the market and lower supply until the price goes way up. Then they sell it and make a killing off the American people. That's not fair.

We can't drill our way out of this problem. We must end Wall Street speculation, end subsidies for the oil companies, and end the political rhetoric. Let's have real solutions to the problems.

#### AFTER-BIRTH ABORTION

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, on February 23, the Journal of Medical Ethics published an article, entitled, "After-birth abortion: why should the baby live?"

The authors argue that an infant child can be killed since they do not have the same moral status as a "person." They go even further to say that adoption is not always in the best interest of an unwanted child.

The furor over this article has been immense. Unfortunately, the editors defend publishing this article on the basis that there should be reasoned engagement on the subject.

This article may have the form of scholarly argument, but its substance is madness. The authors maintain that a baby can only be granted personhood through the recognition of other human beings. They fundamentally reject something that we all hold dear: that all men are endowed by their Creator with the right to life.

A healthy amount of anger over this article is not only natural but also right. It is shocking and sad to see such destructive arguments given credence in a premier medical journal.

#### WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the